

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 EB-11 COME-00 PA-04 PRS-01

USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /073 W

----- 120202

P R 110904Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8673

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UR, CASC

SUBJ: REPORTED HARASSMENT OF AMERICAN TOURISTS

1. UPI CORRESPONDENT RAY MOSELEY TOLD CONSOFF MORNING MAY 11 THAT UPI IS CARRYING STORY FROM MOSCOW ABOUT SOVIET POLICE HARASSMENT OF CONTINGENT AMERICAN TOURIST DENTISTS WHO ARRIVED IN MOSCOW MAY 7 ON INTOURIST TOUR. ACCORDING TO MOSELEY UPI IS REPORTING THAT TEN AMERICANS, LARGELY OF JEWISH ORIGIN, WENT ON BUS TRIP MAY 10 WITH LARGER GROUP SOVIET ACTIVIST JEWS FOR PICNIC ALONG KALUZHSKOYE SHOSSE SEVENTEEN MILES FROM MOSCOW. SOVIET SECURITY, APPARENTLY ALERTED TO GATHERING, REPORTEDLY SURROUNDED BUS AT ITS DESTINATION, REFUSED ACCESS TO PICNIC AREA, AND JOSTLED, MANHANDLED, AND OTHERWISE HARASSED SOVIET JEWS AND AMERICANS. ACCORDING TO MOSELEY, THERE WERE "AS MANY AS 150" SOVIET SECURITY AND POLICE OFFICIALS AT THE SCENE.

2. MOSELEY INQUIRED WHETHER EMBASSY HAD BEEN ASKED TO LOOK INTO MATTER. CONSOFF INDICATED TO HIS KNOWLEDGE AMERICAN TOURISTS INVOLVED IN ALLEGED INCIDENT HAD NOT COMMUNICATED WITH EMBASSY. IN RESPONSE TO FURTHER QUESTIONS, CONSOFF SAID AREA OF ALLEGED INCIDENT APPEARED TO BE IN OPEN ZONE.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT CALL TO CONSOFF, UPI CORRESPONDENT BARRY JAMES, WHO FILED STORY, GAVE NAMES AND INTOURIST HOTEL

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TELEPHONE NUMBERS OF SEVERAL AMERICANS INVOLVED, INCLUDING

DR. AND MRS. KROP, DR. AND MRS. LAURANCE, AND DR. AND MRS.
BRANDT OF MIAMI. LATTER REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN CORRESPONDING
WITH SOVIET JEWS FROM US AND ARRANGED ABORTIVE GET-TOGETHER.

4. CONSOFF WILL TRY TO CONTACT AMCITS AND OBTAIN FULL
STORY. EMBASSY WILL THEREAFTER CONSIDER WHETHER FURTHER
ACTION IS APPROPRIATE.
STOESSEL

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